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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/712,268	11/14/2003	Vincent H. Tieu	111325-310200	7953
22204	7590	05/13/2008	EXAMINER	
NIXON PEABODY, LLP			ELISCA, PIERRE E	
401 9TH STREET, NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 900				3621
WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2128			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/13/2008	PAPER

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**BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS  
AND INTERFERENCES**

Application Number: 10/712,268

Filing Date: November 14, 2003

Appellant(s): TIEU ET AL.

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Stephen M. Hertzler  
For Appellant

**EXAMINER'S ANSWER**

This is in response to the appeal brief filed 01/15/2008 appealing from the Office action mailed 06/14/2007.

**(1) Real Party in Interest**

A statement identifying by name the real party in interest is contained in the brief.

**(2) Related Appeals and Interferences**

The examiner is not aware of any related appeals, interferences, or judicial proceedings which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in the pending appeal.

**(3) Status of Claims**

The statement of the status of claims contained in the brief is correct.

**(4) Status of Amendments After Final**

The appellant's statement of the status of amendments after final rejection contained in the brief is correct.

**(5) Summary of Claimed Subject Matter**

The summary of claimed subject matter contained in the brief is correct.

**(6) Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal**

The appellant's statement of the grounds of rejection to be reviewed on appeal is correct.

**(7) Claims Appendix**

The copy of the appealed claims contained in the Appendix to the brief is correct.

**(8) Evidence Relied Upon**

US PG Pub 2002/0099544      Levitt et al    07/2002

**(9) Grounds of Rejection**

The following ground(s) of rejection are applicable to the appealed claims:

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3 and 5-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Levitt et al (U.S. PG Pub No. 2002/0099544).

As per claims 1-3 and 5-40, Gilliam et al teach a computer-implemented method for processing plural rights expressions associated with an item for use in a system for controlling use of the item in accordance with the rights expressions, the method comprising: receiving a request to use the item, the item having associated rights expressions governing use of the item; returning one or more rights expressions including on or more conditions that must be satisfied in order to use the item; and processing the returned rights expressions in a manner to facilitate selection of the returned rights expressions in order to use the item in accordance with the selected rights expressions, prioritizing the returned rights expressions based on one or more conditions of the returned rights expressions, so as to facilitate selection of the returned rights expressions. (*see abstract, paragraphs 0011, 0162-0179*)).

**(10) Response to Argument**

In regard to Applicant's arguments filed on 01/15/2008, Applicant argues that the prior art of record fails to disclose the recited feature:

- a. "processing plural rights expressions associated with an item for use in a system for controlling use of the item in accordance with the rights expressions". As indicated above, the cited reference Levitt et al discloses this limitation in paragraph [0011], [0162], [0179], specifically wherein said grammar expressions may be played to a user. As an option, a score may be assigned to each of the grammar expressions, As such, the grammar expressions may be prioritized and conditionally outputted to a user based on the score. Furthermore, any grammar expressions that are representative of invalid addresses are removed. Such resultant list of grammar expressions are compared against a merged n-best list 518. Please note that the grammar expressions of Levitt is readable as a plural right expressions of Applicant's claimed invention.
- b. "receiving a request to use an item, the item having associated rights expressions governing use of the item". However, the Examiner respectfully disagrees with Applicant's characterization of the prior art. Levitt discloses this limitation in paragraph [0179], specifically wherein said any of the grammar expressions outputted from operation 506 are compared against the database of addresses. Such comparison is used to prioritize any remaining grammar expressions based on the score set forth hereinabove. Therefore, the process of comparing grammar expressions against addresses as described above is readable as rights expressions governing use of the item of Applicant's claimed invention.

c. Applicant further argues that Levitt fails to disclose: "returning one or more rights expressions including one or more conditions that must be satisfied in order to use the item, and processing the returned rights expressions in a manner to facilitate selection of the returned rights expressions in order to use the item in accordance with the selected rights expressions". As noted above, it is the Examiner believes that Levitt discloses this limitation in [0011], [0162], [0179].

**(11) Related Proceeding(s) Appendix**

No decision rendered by a court or the Board is identified by the examiner in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of this examiner's answer.

For the above reasons, it is believed that the rejections should be sustained.

Respectfully submitted,

/Pierre Eddy Eliscsa/  
Primary Examiner

Conferees:  
/A. J. F./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3621

Kambiz Abdi /K. A./  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3692